



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

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ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

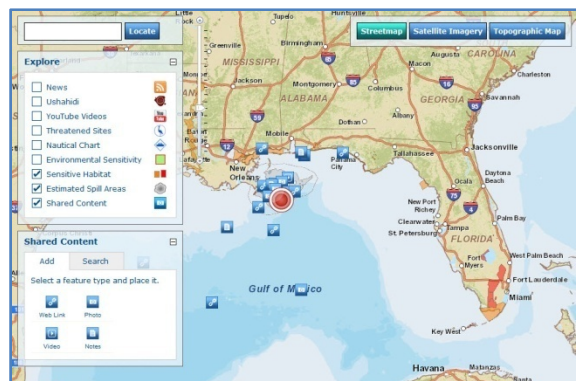
Gulf Coast Oil Spill and Social Media

The Deepwater Horizon incident is set to surpass the Exxon Valdez spill as the worst oil disaster in U.S. history. The EPA, the Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security are providing breaking updates and resources online. The EPA created a damage control Web page (<http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>) that provides breaking updates and resources – including data from EPA’s ongoing air monitoring along with other information about the agency’s activities in the region – for those living in the affected areas. BP and the U.S. Coast Guard are using a Web site (<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/site/2931/>) that featured a photo gallery of tactics being used to capture oil before it hits land — like oil-absorbent pads and underwater booms – and provides recent reports from the Coast Guard, NOAA, the Department of Homeland Security and BP. The U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District External Affairs office has a Flickr slideshow (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uscgd8/>); links are provided to the service’s Twitter account, Oil_Spill_2010

(http://twitter.com/Oil_Spill_2010) and the Coast Guard’s Facebook page, Deepwater Horizon Response. The response team’s YouTube Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill page is at <http://www.youtube.com/deepwaterhorizonjic>. The Deepwater Horizon Response is also on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/DeepwaterHorizonResponse>) and Twitter (http://twitter.com/Oil_Spill_2010). You can follow Lisa Jackson, the EPA administrator on Twitter (@lisapjackson). And USA.gov has an FAQ page on the oil spill at [http://answers.usa.gov/cgi-](http://answers.usa.gov/cgi-bin/gsa_ict.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=8738)



VENICE, La. - Containment boom is staged at the Breton National Wildlife Refuge, Thursday, April 29. As of Friday, April 30, over 217,000 feet of containment boom was in use to help minimize the impact on environmentally sensitive areas. Photo from U.S. Coast Guard.



ESRI Mapping

[bin/gsa_ict.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=8738](http://answers.usa.gov/cgi-bin/gsa_ict.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=8738). DoD Live, the Department of Defense blog (<http://www.dodlive.mil/>), also reports that thousands of Alabama and Louisiana National Guard troops have been activated to help erect barriers and other deterrents to keep oil as far from shore as possible. News is also available from the “Incident News” Web page from NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration: <http://www.incidentnews.gov/incident/8220>. ESRI, a leading geographical information system (GIS) software company, deployed an online mapping tool that allows the plotting of incidents and assets. The application allows you to add points with links to online photos, Web sites and YouTube videos.

<http://www.esri.com/services/disaster-response/gulf-oil-spill-2010/index.html>. And lots of visuals from the spill and related response are online http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php?g2_itemId=841811. In addition, a health and justice organization in New Orleans called The Louisiana Bucket Brigade has launched a mapping tool (<http://oilspill.labucketbrigade.org/main#>) that collects data from citizen reporters in order to depict the magnitude of the explosion and subsequent oil spill.

VDEM Assists With Oil Spill Response

Virginia Department of Emergency Management GIS Manager Brian Crumpler left on May 4 on a 10-day mission to provide geospatial information system support for Deepwater Horizon oil spill response efforts. An April 20 oil rig explosion caused an oil spill that has grown to the size of Delaware. Several state’s coastlines are threatened, as well

as the Gulf Coast's fishing industry. Crumpler was deployed through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a interstate mutual aid structure that helps a disaster-impacted state request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently.

<http://emupdate.tumblr.com/post/571188040>

Assisting with the Oil Spill

"Gov Gab," the U.S. government blog (http://blog.usa.gov/roller/govgab/entry/help_gulf_of_mexico_oil) reports that Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama all have created Web pages for those interested in volunteering. You can also call 1-866-448-5816 for opportunities. No organizations are soliciting in-kind donations at this time, however, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.epa.gov/>) has a place where people can submit a technology solution for the spill.

http://blog.usa.gov/roller/govgab/entry/help_gulf_of_mexico_oil

NOAA: Above-Normal Temperatures and Below-Normal Precipitation in April

NOAA's State of the Climate report shows the April 2010 average temperature for the contiguous United States was 54.3 degrees F, which is 2.3 degrees F above the long-term (1901-2000) average (14th warmest April on record). April's average precipitation was 2.18 inches, 0.25 inch below the 1901-2000 average. Many Mid-Atlantic states observed much-below-normal precipitation. Both Louisiana and South Carolina experienced their sixth driest April. It was also abnormally dry in Connecticut (eight), North Carolina (ninth), **Virginia (ninth)** and Maryland (tenth). Drought coverage increased slightly during the month to a value near historical norms. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported that 9 percent of the United States was affected by drought on April 27.

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100507_aprilstats.html

Secretary Napolitano Announces Nearly \$790 Million in Critical Infrastructure and Preparedness Grants

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano has announced the fiscal year 2010 Preparedness Grants for nine federal programs—including critical infrastructure-related grants—totaling nearly \$790 million to assist state, local and tribal governments and the private sector in strengthening preparedness for acts of terrorism, major disasters and other emergencies. The critical infrastructure and preparedness grants announced this month include specific steps undertaken by DHS to improve the ability of grant applicants to maximize funding and also incorporate input from state, local, tribal and territorial and private sector partners. Awards will be made on a rolling basis over the summer. The FY 2010 grants announced include:

- **Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) – \$253.4 million** to protect critical transit infrastructure from terrorism—in addition to **\$150 million** in transit security grants provided by the Recovery Act, totaling **\$403.4 million** — including:
 - **Freight Rail Security Grant Program (FRSGP) – \$14.5 million** to protect critical freight rail systems infrastructure from acts of terrorism resulting from railroad cars transporting toxic inhalation hazardous materials.
 - **Intercity Passenger Rail (Amtrak) – \$20 million** to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from terrorism within the Amtrak rail system.
- **Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP) – \$11.5 million** to assist operators of fixed-route intercity and charter bus services to support security plans, facility security upgrades and vehicle and driver protection.
- **Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) – \$288 million** to protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism; enhance maritime domain awareness and risk management capabilities to protect against improvised explosive devices and other non-conventional weapons; conduct training and exercises; and support implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)—in addition to **\$150 million** in port security grants provided by the Recovery Act, totaling **\$438 million**.
- **Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) – \$48 million** to increase preparedness capabilities of jurisdictions responsible for safeguarding critical infrastructure sites and key resource assets, such as chemical facilities and nuclear power plants.
- **Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) Grant Program– \$57.6 million** to support the construction or renovation of Emergency Operations Centers to improve state, local or tribal emergency management and

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners.

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preparedness capabilities to ensure continuity of operations during disasters.

- **Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – \$48 million** to assist governments in carrying out initiatives identified in Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans and improve interoperable emergency communications used to respond to natural disasters and acts of terrorism.
- **Driver's License Security Grant Program (DLSGP) – \$48 million** to help states and territories improve security of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards in order to reduce fraud, enhance the reliability and accuracy of personal identification documents and prevent terrorism.

Further information on preparedness grant programs is available at www.dhs.gov and www.fema.gov/grants.

More Than \$1 Million To Virginia for Infrastructure Repair

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has obligated more than \$1 Million in Public Assistance (PA) funds to the Commonwealth of Virginia for infrastructure repair. The funds are to reimburse the Commonwealth for costs associated with the December 2009 severe winter storm and snowstorm. Reimbursements for the snowstorms in February are being processed and will be obligated at a later date. Eligible applicants include the Commonwealth, local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations. The funds are available on a 75/25 percent cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities including emergency protective measures (Category B) snow assistance for designated localities. Counties designated for Public Assistance funding include Fairfax, as well as the independent cities of Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park (see the complete list online).

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=51533>

NOAA Deploys "Smart Buoy" in the Potomac River near Washington, D.C.


The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office deployed a "smart buoy" on Friday, May 14, in the Potomac River, just south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. This buoy—closest to our nation's capital—is the newest in NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS), a network that provides scientists, boaters, and educators with real-time data about the Bay. CBIBS buoys collect weather, oceanographic and water-quality observations and transmit this data wirelessly in near-real time. These measurements, along with historical information, can be accessed at www.buoybay.org (www.buoybay.org/m for mobile devices) and by phone at 877-BUOY-BAY (877-286-9229).

CBIBS uses new technology to make information available for a broad range of measurements, including bay restoration progress. Online educational resources are also available. Buoys in the system also mark points along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, which highlights the natural history of the Bay and provides opportunities for recreation, education, and tourism in the Chesapeake Bay region while encouraging stewardship of the bay. This is the eighth buoy in the CBIBS system. Buoys deployed earlier are located at the mouths of the Susquehanna, Patapsco, Severn, Potomac, and Rappahannock Rivers, in the James River near Jamestown, and the Elizabeth River off Norfolk.

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100514_smartbuoy.html

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Current Threat Level

- The United States government's national threat level is Elevated, or Yellow.
- The U.S. threat level is High, or Orange, for all domestic and international flights. Only small amounts of liquids, aerosols and gels are allowed in carry-on baggage. See the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site (<http://www.tsa.gov>) for up-to-date information on items permitted and prohibited on airlines.
- Virginia Threat Level: 

National Threat Advisory:
ELEVATED

Significant Risk Of Terrorist Attacks

Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

- Continue all precautions from lower Threat Conditions.
- Announce Threat Condition ELEVATED to employees.

- Review vulnerability and threat assessments and revise as needed.
- Identify and monitor governmental information sharing sources for warnings and alerts.
- Update and test call down list for emergency response teams and key employees.
- Review and coordinate and update mutual aid agreements with other critical facilities and government agencies.
- Establish and monitor active and passive security measures.
- Review employee training on security precautions (bomb threat procedures, reporting suspicious packages, activities and people).
- Conduct communications checks to ensure radio contact can be established.

At this time there is no credible information warning of an imminent, specific threat to the homeland. All Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately. Everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency.

http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm

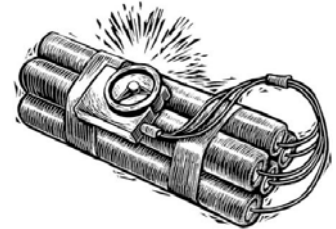
<http://vaemergency.com/>

Prepare for Disasters

from the “Gov Gab: Your U.S. Government Blog” by Joanne

(http://blog.usa.gov/roller/govgab/entry/prepare_for_disasters)

“It’s not unusual to hear stories of bombs going off in markets, public places, and government buildings in far off lands. This weekend was different because the car bomb was on U.S. soil. Luckily for New York City, the car never exploded. I think a great deal of credit goes to the alert person who reported the smoking car to the police, and of course the skilled officers who dismantled the bomb before it could do any harm. I’m not the sort of person to stir up a lot of fear and paranoia, but incidents like this remind us all that danger is present (<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/terrorism/info.shtm>) in our lives. So what’s a reasonable person to do? Always be aware of your surroundings, trust your intuition and move to a safe place if you feel that something’s not right, and don’t be afraid to report suspicious behavior or unattended packages to police or security personnel. Another thing you can do is to prepare for a [disaster](#). Car bombs are (thankfully) unusual, but other disasters like floods, fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes are pretty common. Be sure to prepare an emergency kit for your family (<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html>), your business (<http://www.ready.gov/business/index.html>) and even your pets (<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html>).”



Underscoring Strong Public-Private Partnership

Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) from the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection are reaching out to nearly 300 individual sports league venues around the country as part of our coordinated campaign to raise awareness and enhance the safety and security of critical infrastructure within the commercial facilities sector. DHS has asked the PSAs to meet with facility security directors and owners and operators to provide them information and resources they need to enhance protection. These visits will serve as a foundation for stronger working relationships and future collaboration with security forces in the sports league and public assembly subsectors. The comprehensive outreach effort is designed to get tools and resources into the field as a follow-up to the two-day conference and table-top exercise recently held in Northern Virginia. That event brought together approximately 200 members of professional sports leagues, industry associations, academia, private sports event security companies, law enforcement agencies, and other federal partners. Read more and watch a video on the subject at “The Blog @ Homeland Security” at <http://blog.dhs.gov/2010/05/underscoring-strong-public-private.html>. If you’d like more information about critical infrastructure initiatives currently underway at DHS, visit www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure.



FEMA And Tennessee Emergency Management Establish Facebook Page For Disaster Recovery

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) today announced an online hub for collaborative information-sharing through Facebook for the response and recovery to severe weather and flooding in Tennessee. The Web page, www.facebook.com/TNDisasterInfo hosts an online community where those affected by the disaster and those active in the response can share information. FEMA and TEMA, as well as their federal, state, and local and voluntary agency partners are posting recovery tips and updates, including shelter locations and details on how to access disaster assistance. FEMA and TEMA will also upload videos and photos from the affected area. Participants in the online community are invited to share stories, tips and links that may help those affected by the disaster. They can also seek information on assistance in their area. Widgets are also available to carry disaster information to the public. This predesigned tool includes direct links to information such as how to apply for assistance.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=51332>

USFA Releases Grill Fires on Residential Properties Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report examining the characteristics of grill fires on residential properties. The report, "Grill Fires on Residential Properties," was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with fire departments and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe. The report is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2006 to 2008 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report, an estimated 5,700 grill fires on residential properties occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 10 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$37 million in property loss. Over half (57 percent) of grill fires on residential properties occur in the four months of May, June, July and August and almost half (49 percent) of these fires occur during the hours of 5 to 8 p.m. In addition, 32 percent of grill fires on residential properties start on patios, terraces, screened-in porches, or courtyards, while an additional 24 percent start on exterior balconies and unenclosed porches. Finally, propane is the power source in 69 percent of all grill fires on residential properties. For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov. The report is available at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v11i1.pdf>

Local Military and Civilian Planning Critical to Disaster Preparedness

The RAND Corporation has released an interim report for the first phase of its larger study to develop a disaster preparedness support tool for local military and civilian planners. The report, "Bridging the Gap: Developing a Tool to Support Local Civilian and Military Disaster Preparedness," was sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. It describes the current policy context for domestic emergency preparedness, risk analysis, and capabilities-based planning – the starting points for local planning – as well as results from interviews with local military and civilian planners at five selected sites. The overall goal is to create a risk-informed planning support tool that will allow local military installations and civilian entities to conduct "capabilities-based planning" for local major disasters.

<http://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/5507>

New! Open Shelter Locator Map from the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross (ARC) has launched their new online locator for open shelters. The locator features a Google map that is automatically updated every 30 minutes with open shelter locations and population information from ARC chapters around the country. This means you can search for the nearest open shelter at any time. ARC has thousands of possible shelter locations around the country and this map will now allow anyone to find shelters that are currently OPEN because of an emergency situation. Visit the map at <http://www.redcross.org/nss>.

New York and Chicago May Be Underfunded for Counterterrorism, Says Northwestern University

New budget allocation models developed at Northwestern University in Illinois suggest that New York City and Chicago appear underfunded for protection against terrorist threats, while Los Angeles appears overfunded. The research team analyzed budgets for fiscal years 2005 to 2009 for 10 major U.S. urban areas under a variety of terrorist-attack scenarios. They found that the funding New York received in 2009 was around 30 percent of the total

allocated by the Homeland Security Department to the 10 areas. The models said that New York's funding should have ranged from 33 percent to 49 percent. The National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research funded the research.

<http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2010/05/securities.html>

Report: http://www.optimization-online.org/DB_HTML/2010/04/2605.html

Methods for Assessing Vulnerability of Critical Infrastructure

This new research brief by the Institute of Homeland Security Solutions reviews recent scholarly literature in vulnerability and resilience assessment, summarizes the most important findings, and suggests future directions to advance the field of vulnerability and resilience research to prioritize key assets to be protected from the full range of possible threats and be capable of quick restoration if they are damaged by an intentional attack, natural disaster or man-made accident.

https://www.ihsnc.org/portals/0/Documents/VIMSDocuments/IHSS_Solano.pdf

Physical Security Guidance

Recognizing the interdependent relationship between critical infrastructure protection, resilience, and physical security, the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) [<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/emr-isac/index.shtm>] examined the basic measures of a time-efficient, cost-effective, and common sense approach to bolster physical security by Emergency Services Sector (ESS) department and agencies. The following physical security guidance for ESS leaders responsible for any type of physical location was summarized from a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) poster (http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/posters_all.pdf). (NOTE: This particular poster is the third in a series of four security posters at the hyperlink.)

- Monitor and control everyone entering the workplace.
- Check personal identification of non-employees and ascertain the purpose of the visit.
- Repair broken doors, windows, and locks as soon as possible.
- Make back-up copies of sensitive information and databases.
- Observe and report to local law enforcement any suspicious activity in or near the workplace.
- Report suspicious packages to local police without opening or touching.
- Shred or destroy sensitive documents or information no longer needed.
- Maintain an updated inventory of critical equipment, hardware, and software.
- Lock personal items such as wallets and purses when not actively attended.
- Ensure keys, access cards, uniforms, badges, and vehicles are frequently inventoried and locked when not in use.

The EMR-ISAC located additional guidance for improving the physical security of emergency facilities and equipment at a 2009 DHS document: Physical Security Performance Measures (PDF, 631 Kb –

http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/isc_physical_security_performance_measures.pdf).

Reprinted from the Infogram 19-10, May 13, 2010, from the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC).

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/emr-isac/infograms/ig2010/19-10.shtm>

Fire Prevention in the Office

Prepare your employees for fires by placing a fire extinguisher in your office; identify the exit routes out of buildings and ensure that all fire protection equipment is in proper working order. Visit the U.S. Fire Administration “Wild Fire, Are you Prepared?” Web site for more details.

www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/wildfire/

EPA Helps Americans Get Ready for Summer with Insect Repellents

The arrival of warmer weather signals the return of biting insects. Recognizing that, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates pesticides, has updated its insect repellent Web page. By reading and following label directions, the use of repellents can reduce or eliminate the discomfort of insect bites. Ticks can transmit serious diseases such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and other serious diseases. Repellents also curtail the

spread of such mosquito-borne diseases as St. Louis encephalitis and West Nile virus. The Web page serves as a one-stop-shop for information on registered repellents. It provides up-to-date listings of mosquito and tick repellents as well as tips for choosing the right product to meet your needs. One of the key features of the revamped Web page is easy access to information about protection time. It will help people choose the right product for the length of time they will be outdoors. For best results, use only insect repellents registered by EPA. When used according to instructions on the label, registered products have been shown to be effective.

<http://www.epa.gov/repellentfinder>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

International Cybersecurity Concerns

A recent poll by the East-West Institute reveals deep concerns that public and private sectors are not cooperating enough internationally to secure cyberspace. This “Cybersecurity Today” video looks at the survey.

http://www.hstoday.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13132&Itemid=247



DHS Wants Fire Service to Join Fusion Centers

DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano said America’s firefighters are truly the face of homeland security. Addressing about 1,800 at the recent annual CFSI Fire and Emergency Services dinner, Napolitano told them she holds fire and rescue personnel in high regard. She said she understands sharing of information on threats is essential for the safety of responders and vowed that her office will continue to keep the lines of communication open. With that, she announced a move to officially make the fire service an official partner in fusion centers, a clearinghouse for terrorist information. Fusion centers – recommended following the federal investigation of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks – are staffed by federal employees.

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/dhs-wants-fire-service-join-fusion-centers>

How Your Furry Dog Can Help the Gulf Oil Spill

Though it seems like your dog could be the last being that could offer some help with the oil spill that’s spreading in the Gulf of Mexico near the Louisiana border, but that’s not true. Environmentalists and nonprofits are calling for as much dog fur as they can get because it can help absorb the oil.

http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/features/mutts/blog/2010/05/how_your_furry_dog_can_help_th.html

In a Disaster, FEMA is Depending on Your Business Continuity Plans

During a presentation at the Center for National Policy on April 23, Timothy Manning, deputy administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, discussed the criticality of the private sector in national disaster preparedness and recovery. “The private sector is going to be the solution to the majority of the needs of the community,” he said during his speech, “Disasters and Resilience: Perspectives from FEMA.” “The majority of the work, the preparedness and response work, happens at the community level. It’s not at the federal level.” And while he emphasized the importance of private citizens to be prepared for disaster, the overall community recovery is largely dependent on the business continuity plans of private businesses, he said.

<http://www.securitydirectornews.com/?p=article&id=sd201005WXXvxx>

State and Local Immigration Enforcement Lacks Clarity, Says Rand

The role of local and state police and local officials in immigration enforcement has steadily increased over the past few years, yet too little systematic attention has been paid to the implications of that trend, according to a new study released by Rand Corporation, reports “Homeland Security Today.” “Enforcing Immigration Law at the State and Local Levels” outlines the case for federal-local cooperation and current status of federal-local enforcement efforts.

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/13201/149/>

Report: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2010/RAND_OP273.pdf

Vice Chair Cartwright Tells Services to Wake Up to Reality of Smaller Budgets

The point man in charge of requirements at the Pentagon, vice chair of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Hoss Cartwright, just told the services to “wake up!” at a CSIS sponsored conference in Washington, DC. In the real world, not the fantasy bubble of never ending defense budget increases, there are such things as economic dislocation, fiscal deficits and resource constraints, he said. “You are not going to have 300 to 500 ships. You are not going to have thousands of fighters.” At the same time, America must try and reverse its course of the last decade, which was bringing us to the point where we would have one ship on each coast and one plane on each coast, and focus on quantity to help reverse that stark reality: “We need quantity more than we need that high end exquisite capability. If we can’t figure out how to get to that we’re living in denial of the world we’re in and hoping for the world we want to have in front of us.”

<http://defensetech.org/2010/05/13/vice-chair-cartwright-tells-services-to-wake-up/>

Many Homeland Security Initiatives Called Flops

A high-tech “virtual fence” to catch illegal border crossers. Next-generation nuclear detectors at ports. Tamper-proof driver's licenses in every state. These were signature Bush administration initiatives to protect the country against terrorism and secure its borders. All have been proven to be flops, according to government and outside experts, and expensive ones at that. The Department of Homeland Security paid defense contractor Boeing Co. \$1.1 billion to build what is sometimes called the virtual border fence. But the system of radars and cameras can't consistently tell terrorists from tumbleweed, according to the Government Accountability Office. In March, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano froze funding on the project. In February, she overhauled plans to install so-called Advanced Spectroscopic Portal radiation detectors to screen cargo at ports. The units were prone to false alarms and hadn't proved themselves in testing, according to the accountability office. Developed by defense contractor Raytheon under a \$1.2-billion program, the \$822,000 detectors will now be relegated to a secondary screening role. Last May, the Transportation Security Administration removed 37 explosive trace detection machines — or “puffers” — that had been deployed at airports to screen airline passengers at a total cost of \$30 million. The machines had maintenance problems and didn't work consistently.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-homeland-flops-20100515,0,7878244.story>

Deepwater horizon: A Lesson for Public-Private Partnerships in Planning and Exercising for Catastrophe

No matter how strong the prevention effort nor how unlikely the catastrophe, there should be regularly updated plans for mitigating and responding to several – no-kidding – worst case scenarios. To have any hope of effectiveness the plans must be regularly exercised. Both public and private players must be involved in the exercises, assessments, and plan revisions. This prescription is important far beyond offshore drilling and as close as your own neighborhood. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. A dime of preparedness is worth a hundred bucks of response. An hour exercising is worth more than ten hours filling in planning templates. A thoughtful plan, a meaningful exercise, a realistic evaluation, and a rigorous updating of both plans and operations is worth... well, it's one of the rarest of finds.

<http://www.hlswatch.com/2010/05/17/deepwater-horizon-public-private-partnerships-in-catastrophic-planning-and-exercising/>

VDOT's Snow-removal Costs: \$263 Million-plus

This winter's snow storms cost the Virginia Department of Transportation more than a quarter of a billion dollars to clean up. VDOT said earlier this month that snow-related expenditures this year have exceeded \$263 million. The transportation department is taking \$183.6 million from its maintenance and administrative budgets to help cover the costs. The three major storms exhausted the state's \$79.7 million snow-removal fund.

http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/state_regional/article/SNOWGAT19_20100519-103001/345483/

Up Close and Personal with Mobile Communications Centers

The proliferation of command and communications vehicles in local emergency response and emergency management agencies in recent years has brought a wealth of high-tech tools for better managing and coordinating the responses to major emergencies and disasters. Nonetheless, treating these expensive vehicles as isolated units to be deployed only when the “big one” hits loses sight of their true innovative potential as interoperability platforms on

wheels.

* *Fairfax County referenced*

<http://www.homeland1.com/homeland-security-products/communications-interoperability/articles/822407-up-close-and-personal-with-mobile-communications-centers/>

Senate Finds 14 Failures in Handling of Christmas Bomb Attempt

The Senate Intelligence Committee noted “14 failures within the Obama administration that allowed Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab to nearly take down Northwest Flight 253,” reports Global Security Newswire. “... an unclassified 12-page report ... confirms several lapses that came to light after Abdulmutallab was arrested. But it discloses new failures and offers a handful of sweeping recommendations ... Significantly, the report found that the National Counterterrorism Center ‘was not adequately organized and did not have the resources appropriately allocated to fulfill its missions.’”

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100519_4538.php

Senate Intelligence Committee Report: <http://intelligence.senate.gov/100518/1225report.pdf>

FEMA Faces Problems Providing Public Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency faces many challenges in administering its post-disaster Public Assistance Program efficiently and effectively, Matt Jadacki, Deputy Homeland Security Department Inspector General, said recently in testimony before an Ad Hoc subcommittee on disaster recovery for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs reports “Homeland Security Today.” Jadacki “cited untimely funding determinations, deficiencies in program management and poorly designed performance measures, as the critical problems.”

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/13293/149/>

Testimony: http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/testimony/OIGtm_MAJ_051210.pdf

Government Seeks Comments on National Public Safety Broadband System

The Federal Communications Commission is taking a second crack at allocating unused wireless frequency spectrum for a national public safety broadband network, and the commission wants “stakeholder input on how to establish a reliable, secure, and interoperable system,” reports “Security Management.” Comments are due with the commission June 17.

<http://securitymanagement.com/news/fcc-seeks-input-national-public-safety-broadband-system-first-responders-007148#stop>

Notice: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-884A1.pdf

FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county’s pandemic flu Web page for information on upcoming events and other preparedness news.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/>

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 – WHO Update 100

As of May 9, worldwide more than 214 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including over 18,036 deaths. The most active areas of pandemic influenza virus transmission currently are in parts of the Caribbean and Central America, and to a lesser extent in West Africa and South and Southeast Asia. In the temperate zone of the northern and southern hemisphere, overall pandemic influenza activity remains sporadic. Seasonal influenza virus type B continues to be detected at low levels across parts of Asia, Africa and Europe.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2010_05_14/en/index.html

WHO Panel Offers Clinical Profile of H1N1

A panel of experts assembled by the World Health Organization (WHO) has published a clinical profile of pandemic H1N1 influenza, using data from scores of studies to fill in details of the broad picture that has emerged over the past year. The report, released on May 5, by the “New England Journal of Medicine,” affirms that the disease has taken its heaviest toll on young adults and children but otherwise generally resembles seasonal flu. The international team of 15 authors writes that the overall estimated case-fatality rate (CFR) has been less than 0.5 percent, with estimates ranging all the way from 0.0004 percent to 1.47 percent, reflecting uncertainty about the true number of cases. The U.S. CFR has been estimated at 0.048 percent, a bit higher than the United Kingdom’s estimate of 0.026 percent. About 90 percent of those who have died of the virus were younger than 65, while hospitalization rates have been highest in children under 5 years old and lowest in the elderly, the report notes. The virus seems to be about as contagious as seasonal flu or slightly more so, with estimates of the basic reproduction number (the number of secondary cases caused by the primary case in a susceptible population) ranging from 1.3 to 1.7. But in school outbreaks the number may be about twice as high: 3.0 to 3.6. The report says that about 25 percent to 50 percent of H1N1 patients who were hospitalized or died had no coexisting medical condition.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/may0510clinical.html>

UPDATE: Questions and Answers about Updating Guidance on Infection Control Measures for Influenza in Healthcare Settings

CDC is updating the “Interim Guidance on Infection Control Measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Healthcare Settings, Including Protection of Healthcare Personnel.” Circumstances have changed significantly with respect to availability of a safe and effective vaccine, and in terms of what officials know about the health impact of the novel H1N1 influenza strain. The guidance is updated to reflect newer information.

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/control_measures_qa.htm

U.S.: Where Did the Vaccine Go?

Health officials faced with meager supplies of swine flu vaccine last fall sent doses to some surprising places: cruise ship lines, Wall Street firms and the Johnson Space Center. There is no complete database of where every dose went. But partial records show that financial institutions and other surprising recipients sometimes got doses before county health departments and doctor’s offices. That was the finding from an Associated Press Freedom of Information request. Health officials say at least 85 percent of doses went to the most vulnerable people. And other health experts say overall the vaccination campaign was a success.

http://www.salon.com/wires/health/2010/03/18/D9EH6Q8O0_us_med_swine_flu_vaccine/index.html

CDC Guidance for Camp Responses to Influenza during the 2010 Summer Camp Season

This document provides guidance to help prevent and control the spread of influenza (flu), including 2009 H1N1 flu, among campers and camp staff during the 2010 summer camp season. This guidance updates the earlier camp guidance on novel influenza A (H1N1 flu) virus that was issued on June 14, 2009. Recommendations are based on CDC’s current knowledge of flu, including 2009 H1N1 flu, in the United States. CDC will continue to monitor flu activity and update the current guidance as needed. Camps for children, young adults, and families range from programs conducted for several hours in a day (day camps) to programs that are overnight for several days or weeks in group settings (residential camps). For the purpose of the CDC guidance, “camps” refer to day and residential camp settings.

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/camp.htm>

Eradication of Smallpox May Have Set the Stage for HIV Pandemic

The worldwide eradication of smallpox in the mid-20th century was a remarkable public health achievement, but it may have set the stage for the HIV pandemic of the latter half of the century, researchers reported. Laboratory tests suggest that immunity to smallpox triggered by the vaccinia (smallpox) vaccine can inhibit the replication of the AIDS virus. Such vaccination could have kept HIV transmission partially under control in the early days of the outbreak, but withdrawal of the smallpox vaccine in the 1950s would have freed it to spread unfettered, the researchers said. The most common form of HIV is thought to have evolved from a simian immunodeficiency virus found in chimpanzees of southern and western Africa sometime around 1931. It spread slowly until the mid- to late-

1950s, when it began to spread exponentially. Wars, misuse of medical equipment and contamination of a polio vaccine have been suggested as possible causes of the spread, but such theories have either been disproved or do not sufficiently explain the behavior of the HIV pandemic, said Dr. Raymond S. Weinstein of the biodefense program at George Mason University.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/la-poxhiv18-m,0,2340453.story>

Time to Get Back on Track to Meet the Millennium Development Goals

Here's an excerpt from Dr. Margaret Chan's speech to the 63rd World Health Assembly, "Time to get back on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals." Chan is Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO).

"Good news for public health usually arises from factors like political commitment, sufficient resources, strong interventions and implementation capacity, equitable delivery, and alignment with national priorities and capacities. **Sometimes, though, we are just plain lucky.** This has been the case with the H1N1 influenza pandemic. The virus did not mutate to a more lethal form. Cases of resistance to oseltamivir remained few and isolated. The vaccine closely matched circulating viruses and showed an excellent safety record. Emergency wards and intensive care units were often strained, but few health systems were overwhelmed and the effects were usually short-lived. Schools closed, but borders remained open, and disruptions to travel and trade were far less severe than feared. **Had things gone wrong in any of these areas, we would have a very different agenda before us today.**"

http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2010/WHA_address_20100517/en/index.html

The Public's Response to the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic

From the "New England Journal of Medicine" comes an informative report on "The Public's Response to the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic." Excerpt from the H5N1 blog:

The public expressed two particular concerns about the government's response. First, some people were displeased with the vaccine shortage, and while the shortage existed, a majority of respondents (54%) said the federal government was doing a poor or very poor job of providing the country with adequate vaccine supplies (Gallup). Second, the public was divided about public health officials' efforts to make sure the H1N1 vaccine was safe early in the distribution process, even though two thirds (63 percent) of the public said in January that "public health officials had done the right amount to make sure the H1N1 flu vaccine is safe" (HSPH, January 2009). For example, in November, adults were nearly evenly divided on whether medical testing of the H1N1 influenza vaccine had moved too quickly to ensure that it was safe: 45 percent said it was done as quickly as possible while still making sure the vaccine was safe, whereas 40 percent said it was done too quickly so that people could not be sure it was safe (Fox, Nov. 2009).

<http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1/2010/05/us-the-publics-response-to-h1n1.html>

WHO Faces Questions Over Swine Flu Policy

As the 193 member states of the World Health Organization meet in Geneva this month, questions over the body's handling of the H1N1 swine flu pandemic are high on the agenda. The WHO has struggled to offer clear answers on the question of its definition of a pandemic, partly because of its policy of keeping the identity and the deliberations of its pandemic emergency advisory committee secret. The only known member of the committee is its chairman, Australian flu specialist John MacKenzie. WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl said names of those on the sitting committee had not been made public because of the potential "for bringing undue pressure on them when they are making decisions which have societal and economic impacts." The lack of transparency in its decision making process, together with the WHO's advice to countries to begin widespread vaccination against swine flu, has led some observers to suspect undue influence from the pharmaceutical industry.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/10128604.stm>

H1N1: What You Should Know and Do this Flu Season if You Are 65 Years and Older

Actions To Take This Flu Season:

- **Get Your Seasonal & 2009 H1N1 Flu Shot.** The best way to prevent the flu is with a flu vaccine. People 65 years and older are recommended for annual seasonal flu vaccination. People 65 and older who have not yet gotten a seasonal flu vaccine should still seek vaccination, although supplies of seasonal flu vaccine are

limited because of early availability of, and high interest in, seasonal flu vaccine this year. People 65 years and older are now encouraged to seek vaccination against 2009 H1N1 vaccine. Supplies of the vaccines to protect against the 2009 H1N1 virus have increased dramatically and most places have opened up vaccination to anyone who wants it. This vaccine is the best way to protect against the 2009 H1N1 pandemic virus. Those who have been patiently waiting to receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, including people 65 years and older, are now encouraged to get vaccinated.

- Take Everyday Preventive Actions including covering coughs, washing hands often and avoiding people who are sick.
- Seek medical advice quickly if you develop flu symptoms to see whether you might need medical evaluation or possibly treatment with antiviral medications. People 65 and older are prioritized to get antiviral drugs if they become sick with the flu according to CDC's guidance. Flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people may also have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, including 2009 H1N1, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/65andolder.htm>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

15th Annual Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference

June 1-4; National Conference Center, Lansdowne, Va.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry will hold its 15th Annual Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference to address a wide range of safety and health topics, and DOLI will offer the federal 10-hour courses in both General Industry and Construction.

http://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh_conference/vosh_conference.html

Virginia State Animal Response Team 2010 Summit

June 4; John Tyler Community College, Chester, Va.

Topics for the Virginia State Animal Response Team 2010 Summit include:

- How to start a Community Animal Response Team.
- State pet-friendly sheltering update.
- Training and sheltering at the community level.

The agenda and registration form are available at <http://www.virginiasart.org/sartflyers.pdf>.

Understanding Risk Forum

June 1-6; Washington, D.C.

The Understanding Risk Forum will include the Understanding Risk Conference, the Global Earthquake Model Annual Outreach Meeting, D.C. Crisis Camp, and the Random Hacks of Kindness Hackathon.

<http://community.understandrisk.org/main/>

World Conference on Disaster Management

June 6-9; Toronto, Canada

Emergency management and business continuity working together – the largest annual conference in the world that brings together professionals from these and other disciplines.

<http://www.wcdm.org/>

13th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference

June 7-10; Emmitsburg, Md.

The FEMA Emergency Management Institute is hosting the 13th Annual Emergency Management Conference for representatives of colleges and universities which have an existing hazard, disaster, emergency management program

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in place, or are attempting to develop and implement a hazard/disaster, emergency management program on campus.
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/educonference10.asp>

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Consequence Management Conference

June 8-10; Chantilly, Va.

The conference will provide a professional forum for decision makers and planners; develop a deeper understanding of capabilities, limitations, and challenges; and discuss how Defense Department supporting organizations can best provide integrated efforts to domestic and foreign lead federal agencies.

<http://www.cmconferences.org/>



(June 14-17; Washington, DC) This conference comprises three consecutive parts: the Developments in Biodefense Technology Platforms Symposium, the Animal Model Forum, and the Biodefense Vaccines & Therapeutics Conference.

<http://www.infocastinc.com/index.php/conference/biodef10/>

Biodection Technologies 2010

June 17-18; Arlington, Va.

This conference will explore the latest research and development and commercialization efforts in the cutting-edge fields of biodefense technologies, including threat detection and identification, technological challenges, the role of nanotechnology and biochips, and bioinformatics.



http://www.knowledgefoundation.com/viewevents.php?event_id=216&act=evt

Achieving Enterprise Resilience: The Convergence of Government and Private Sector Risk Management Interests Across the Homeland Security Enterprise

June 17; George Mason University, Arlington campus, 3401 Fairfax Drive, Arlington

The purpose of this one-day conference is to foster an open dialogue focusing on the convergence of public and private sector homeland security risk management interests as essential to achieving a higher level of national resilience. Co-hosted by the Security Analysis and Risk Management Association (SARMA) and George Mason University's Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS), the conference will begin with a public forum consisting of key speakers, panel discussions and selected case studies. This forum will provide attendees with a better sense of current government, academic and private sector perspectives, discuss relevant policy issues and standards development efforts, and show how public and private sector interests can be collectively served through real-world examples.

<http://l.pr/a4fxt/>

2010 National UASI Conference

June 21-24; New Orleans, LA

This conference was originally conceived from information sharing partnerships between the UASI program managers of the Charlotte and Miami UASIs, who recognized a distinct need for an information sharing platform. The first of these conferences was held in Dallas, TX in 2005; supported by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Metro Chiefs Committee.

www.urbanareas.org



Chemical Sector Security Summit

July 7-8; Baltimore, Md.

Cosponsored by the Homeland Security Department's Office of Infrastructure Protection and the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council, this event is for those involved in corporate and facility security; environment, health and safety; or transportation and distribution of chemical products. It will cover chemical security regulations, chemical industry resiliency and cybersecurity industry practices.

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1176736485793.shtm

2nd International Swine Flu Conference

Aug. 18-19; Washington, D.C.

The 2nd International Swine Flu Conference will be followed by all day hands-on workshops (Aug. 20) and will provide a platform for public health officials and community stakeholders to come together, to network and exchange preparedness and response efforts. To register, call 202-536-5000.

www.new-fields.com/2ndISFC/registration.pdf

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - <http://www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can continue to submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-5389 or by e-mail at NICCRports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page features easy navigation and a clean look so that residents can easily find emergency information.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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